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INTERIM VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR
PUBLIC LANDS
IN

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BASIN



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ABSTRACT FOR INTERIM VISITOR MANAGEMENT
OF PUBLIC LANDS IN MONO BASIN

The interim visitor management plan is a single resource element of an overall management plan for public lands in Mono Basin. The plan establishes a coordinated program of recreation management actions to be implemented by the Bureau.

Water exports to Los Angeles from streams which replenish the lake have generated sensitive and controversial issues of impacts to the lake and its littoral biology, scenery, recreational value and ownership. The lake level has receded since water diversions began which has resulted in a dry, alkali ring around the existing wet lake. Subsequent litigation and continuing controversies pertaining to the area's resource values necessitate that the plan be dynamic and interim in nature. This facilitates management flexibility and administrative efficiency as new data are accumulated, as environmental values and public concerns change, as management responsibility may vary, and as new areas of recreational value are identified.

The overall goal of the plan is to identify resource values that provide recreation use opportunities on public lands in the Mono Basin, and to develop an integrated management program designed to protect the area's natural values and optimize visitor use satisfaction.

As areas containing recreation resource values are identified, integrated area element management plans will be developed. These area element plans will be attached as supplements to the Interim Visitor Management Plan for Public Lands in Mono Basin. Yearly status summary reports will be added to the area element plans as new data are accumulated, as environmental values change, and as visitation use patterns vary. The Interim South Tufa Visitor Use Plan is the first such area element plan which has incorporated site specific management actions to protect the area's unique and sensitive recreation values. This supplemental plan follows the broad visitor management plan for public lands in Mono Basin. Respective budgetary considerations are described in each of the two plans.

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INTERIM VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR PUBLIC LANDS

IN MONO BASIN

December 1981

Prepared by

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Bakersfield District

Bishop Resource Area

Prepared by:

Robert E. Beehler

Team Leader, Visitor Services Specialist
Bishop Resource Area

March 11, 1982

Date

Reviewed by:

James J. Morrison

Area Manager
Bishop Resource Area

3-11-82

Date

Reviewed by:

David W. Lamb

District Manager
Bakersfield District

3-19-82

Date

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I INTRODUCTION



INTERIM VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC LANDS IN MONO BASIN

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This interim visitor management plan is a single resource element of an overall management plan for public lands in Mono Basin. This plan establishes a coordinated program of recreation management actions to be implemented by the Bureau of Land Management. This plan is dynamic and interim in concept to allow for additional data accumulation, changing environmental values and public concerns, varying management responsibility, and the identification of areas containing recreational values.

B. Plan Area

The area addressed by the plan is in Mono County, California. As shown on Map A, page 7, the plan area is 70 miles east of Yosemite National Park Headquarters and 60 miles north of Bishop. The area is served by U. S. Highway 395 and State Highway 120 on the south and Highway 167 on the north. Mono Basin is 50 miles long and more than 20 miles wide. The western part of the basin lies at the foot of the steep-faced Sierra Nevada escarpment and is otherwise walled in by Great Basin ranges.

Within the Mono Basin, Mono Lake, the most prominent geographical feature, covers almost 60 square miles and is above 6,000 feet in elevation. The town of Lee Vining is located near the western shoreline of the lake and serves the residents of the basin, as well as tourists visiting the area.

Most of the land in the basin is in public ownership administered by the Bureau. The State Lands Commission claims ownership to the bed of Mono Lake and relicted lands. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power owns significant amounts of land within the basin.

Annual spring and summer runoffs feed Mono Lake from snow captured on the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Annual precipitation in Mono Basin ranges from 8 inches at the lake surface to 18 inches in the higher elevations. Infrequent snow fall seldom remains on the ground for extended periods at lake elevation.

Since the completion of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Mono Basin Project in 1940, water diversions from streams feeding the lake have been exported to Los Angeles. With the completion of a second aqueduct in 1970, the diversions increased and lake evaporation has exceeded stream inflow replenishment; the lakeline has receded, resulting in a ring of exposed dry lake bed circumscribing the existing wet lake. These relicted lands (approximately 16,000 acres) contain resource values of geologic, wildlife, scenic and human interest (see Map B on page 8).

Vegetation on the slopes above the lake is composed largely of semi-arid low shrubs, forbs and grasses. Higher in the foothills, pinyon pine and juniper are the dominant cover. Due to the lake's steady recession, the shoreline is constantly changing. As a result, only minimal vegetation consisting of salt grass has been able to establish itself.

C. Management Background

Outdoor recreation management is one of several natural resource programs that make up the Bakersfield District's multiple-use management effort on public lands in the plan area.

The south shore of Mono Lake is included in the Mono Mills-Dorn Allotment (sheep grazing), and the east shore is within the Mono Lake Allotment (cattle).

On the north shore are the Mono Settlement (sheep), Dechambeau Ranch (sheep) and Mono Sand Flat (cattle) Allotments. Although none of the relicted lands are actually allotted, grazing by adjacent permittees does occur. The Bureau manages forest resources, watershed and wildlife habitat on public lands within the area.

Wildlife habitat management is a particularly critical aspect of the Bureau's activity. The Bureau designated Negit Island, now a peninsula, a Natural Area on August 31, 1972. In 1980, the Bureau invoked a seasonal closure of the public land located on Paoha and Negit Islands to protect the nesting wildlife (see Appendix I).

Numerous mining claims have been located throughout the plan area. However, very little activity is occurring with the exception of the U. S. Pumice Works, which extracts pumice for industrial use. The area is within a Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA), so the possibility of an increase in activity in this area is likely.

The recent culmination of land use planning in the Bishop Resource Area and public interaction have provided baseline resource use data for lands in the Mono Basin. Off-road vehicle use, bird watching, commercial filming activities, sightseeing, scientific research, nature study, etc. are new, diverse and sometimes conflicting activities occurring on Mono Lake relicted lands and in adjoining areas. Bureau recreation management within the plan area has not been very active in the past. This has changed in the past year with the publicity of the lake plight. As greater numbers of visitors have become aware of the recreation potential of the area, the responsibility of the Bureau to provide an effective management presence and visitor services has evolved. The first step the Bureau took was to protect the South Tufa Area by closing it to motorized vehicles. Additionally, field patrols were set up to monitor the effectiveness of the closure and educate the visiting recreationist about the unique scenic and environmental values present.

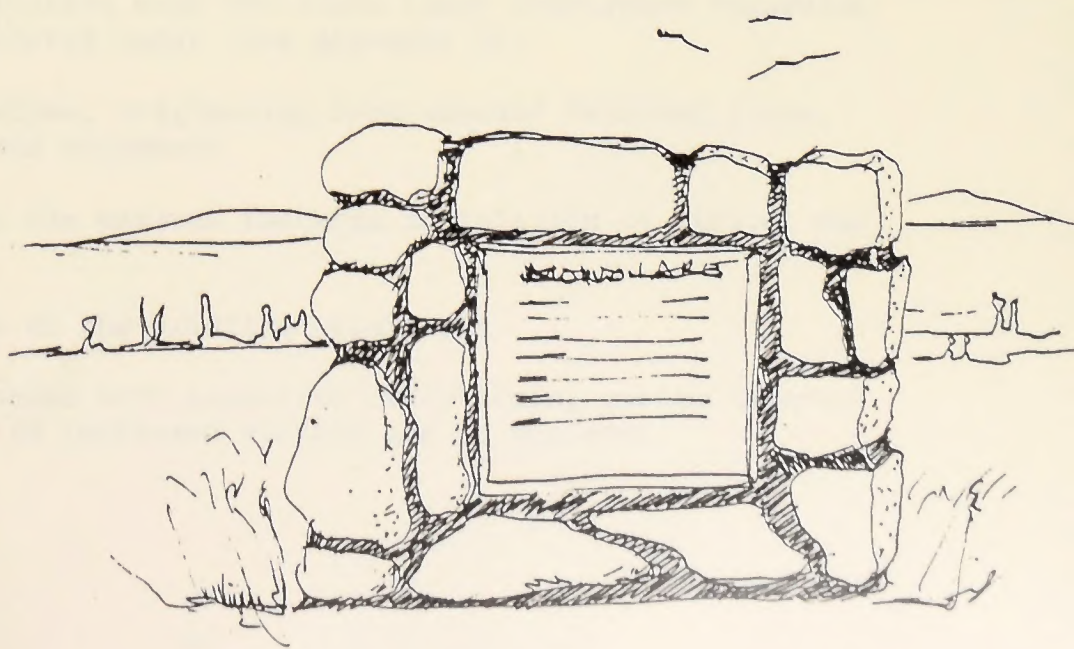
Identified as an area element of high recreational value, an Interim Visitor Use Plan for South Tufa was developed to protect its natural values and provide for compatible visitor use opportunities. The site-specific area element plan is provided as a supplement to this document.

In response to the increasing public concern and use of the Mono Lake area, the Bureau has committed itself to managing visitor use in a manner that protects the natural values throughout the Mono Basin.

Finally, the recent passage of California Senate Bill Number 83 authorizes the California Department of Parks and Recreation to manage the relicted lands in a manner that protects its unique resources. An agreement between the Bureau and the State for management of relicted lands has been recently developed by BLM and is currently undergoing management review by both agencies.

III. GOAL & MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS

II-III GOAL & MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS



II. Goal

Identify resource values that provide recreation use opportunities on Mono Lake relict lands and adjoining areas of the Basin, and develop an integrated management program designed to protect the area's natural values and optimize visitor use satisfaction.

A. Objectives

Develop integrated area element management plans for identified areas containing recreation resource values. Consider the following objectives to be incorporated into the plans for subsequent implementation:

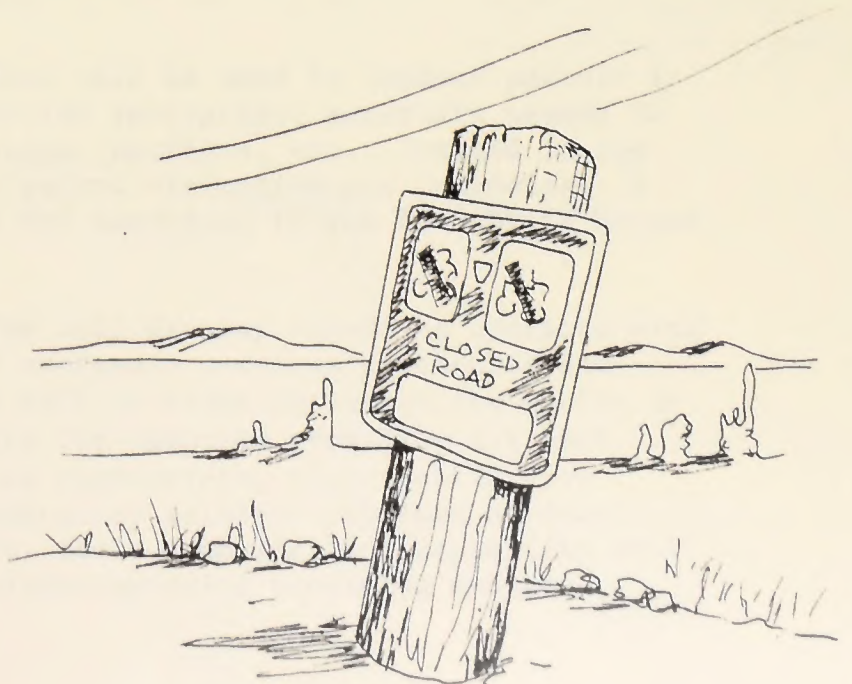
1. Provide adequate use supervision for protection of facilities and natural values, visitor safety and protection, visitor information and assistance, collection of visitor use data and outdoor education opportunities.
2. Develop and enhance resource compatible, high quality opportunities for recreational uses such as picnicking, sightseeing, interpretation and (dispersed) primitive camping by providing and maintaining facilities to accommodate these uses.
3. Initiate administrative actions designed to protect the area's natural values as well as provide enforcement capability. This may include withdrawal of the area from mineral entry, imposing regulations prohibiting destruction or defacement of the area's natural values, etc.
4. Manage vehicle access by designating specific areas and roads under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8342.
5. Accommodate visitor use to the extent that it does not compromise the integrity of ongoing research.

III. Constraints

Constraints inhibiting full management of the area include:

- A. The lack of factual visitor use data around some areas of the lake.
- B. The resolution of the pending management agreement between the Bureau and the State Parks for relict lands around Mono Lake.
- C. The changing lake level and the following associated elements:
 1. The pending litigation with the State Lands Commission regarding contested ownership of relict lands (see Appendix II).
 2. Alkali dust problems, originating from exposed relict lands, may affect public safety and enjoyment.
 3. The stability of the natural features in relation to visitor and environmental impacts.
 4. Possible impacts to the wildlife population.
- D. Special interest concerns have generated overwhelming public interest and controversy resulting in increased visitor use to the area.

IV PLANNED ACTIONS



IV. Planned Actions

A. Administrative

1. Manage special use authorizations on Mono Lake related lands according to the following criteria:

a. Authorized use is for enhancing or maintaining the area's natural values by means of research, administrative or other authorized purposes associated with protecting and/or enhancing the area's environmental values.

b. The authorized use or activity will only be permitted if the activity cannot be conducted in an area outside a closed area.

c. The authorized use or activity will only be permitted if such use is an absolute necessity to fulfill a proposed activity.

d. Each proposed activity will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Area Manager to determine compliance with the above criteria.

2. Initiate regulations and enforcement measures prohibiting the disturbance, defacement, displacement or interference of identified sensitive natural values in Mono Basin.

3. Prohibit all forms of camping (except under authorization) within the closed area pending completion of a recreation evaluation.

4. Coordinate with other agency groups and interested parties, as necessary, to insure compatible management.

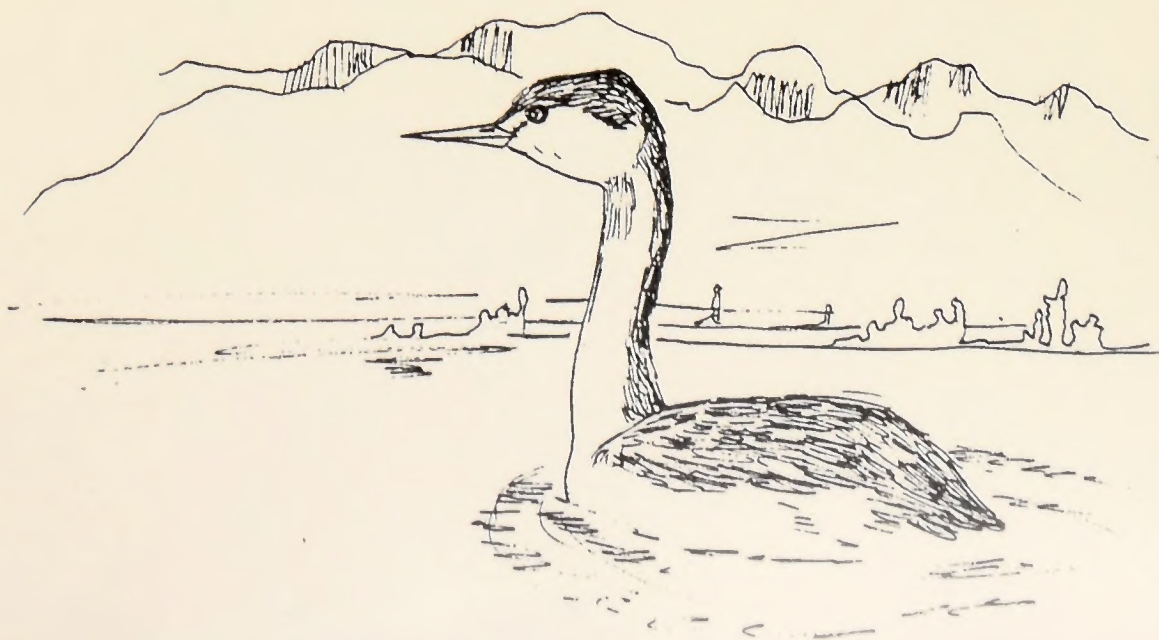
B. Field Implementation

1. Patrols - Resource identification and area visitor use patrols will commence in May and continue, dependent on weather, until October. Initially, weekends and (various) weekdays will be the priority schedule. A daily presence will be maintained, if possible, pending supplemental manpower. In addition, the Visitor Services Specialist (VSS) will provide assistance, as needed, at the South Tufa Area, insure compliance of the Negit Island seasonal closure as well as special use authorizations issued on public lands.

As available, various staff specialists will be used to conduct patrols in support of the VSS. The VSS will provide appropriate materials needed to maintain the various improvements, signs, barriers, etc., located in the plan area and the forms necessary to record visitation and incidents. A patrol log will be maintained by the VSS according to the 8360 Draft Bureau Manual standards.

2. Emergency Services - The VSS will develop immediate contacts with the appropriate agencies to identify emergency services procedures and responsibilities. Appropriate steps will be taken to insure the public is protected at all times by working with the agencies providing all such services. The Bureau will develop, as appropriate, the capability to address any problems that existing emergency services provided by other agencies cannot meet. As appropriate, radio communication capability will be developed between the Bureau and other agencies providing emergency services.

V BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

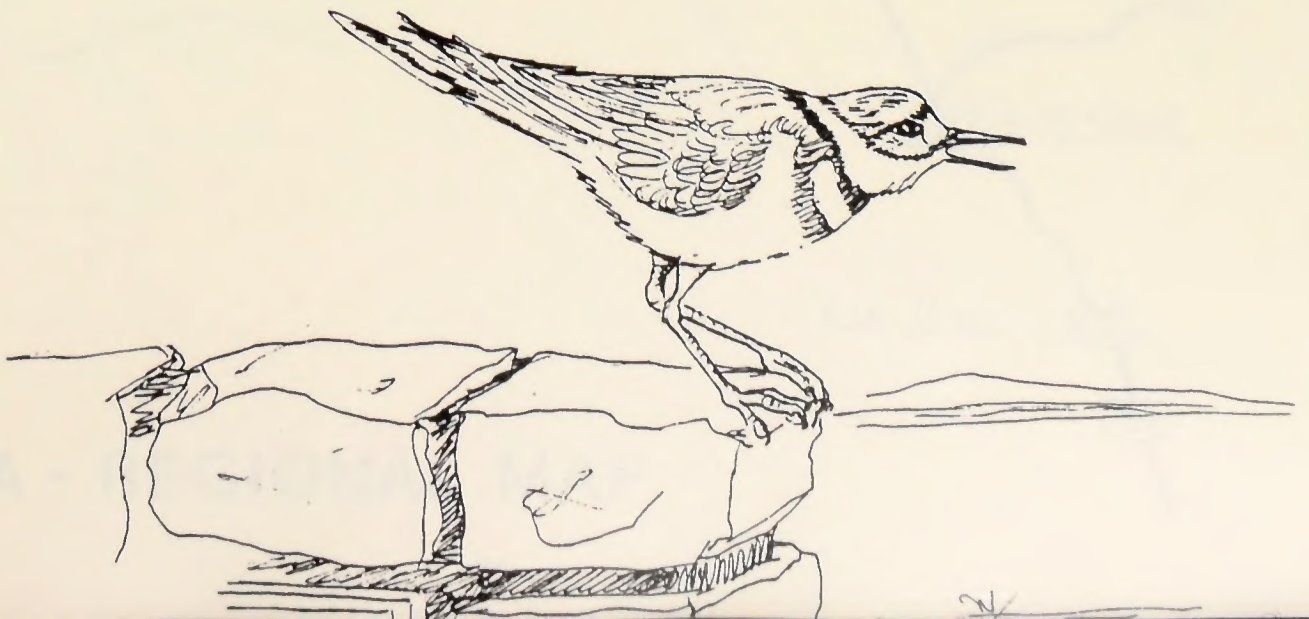


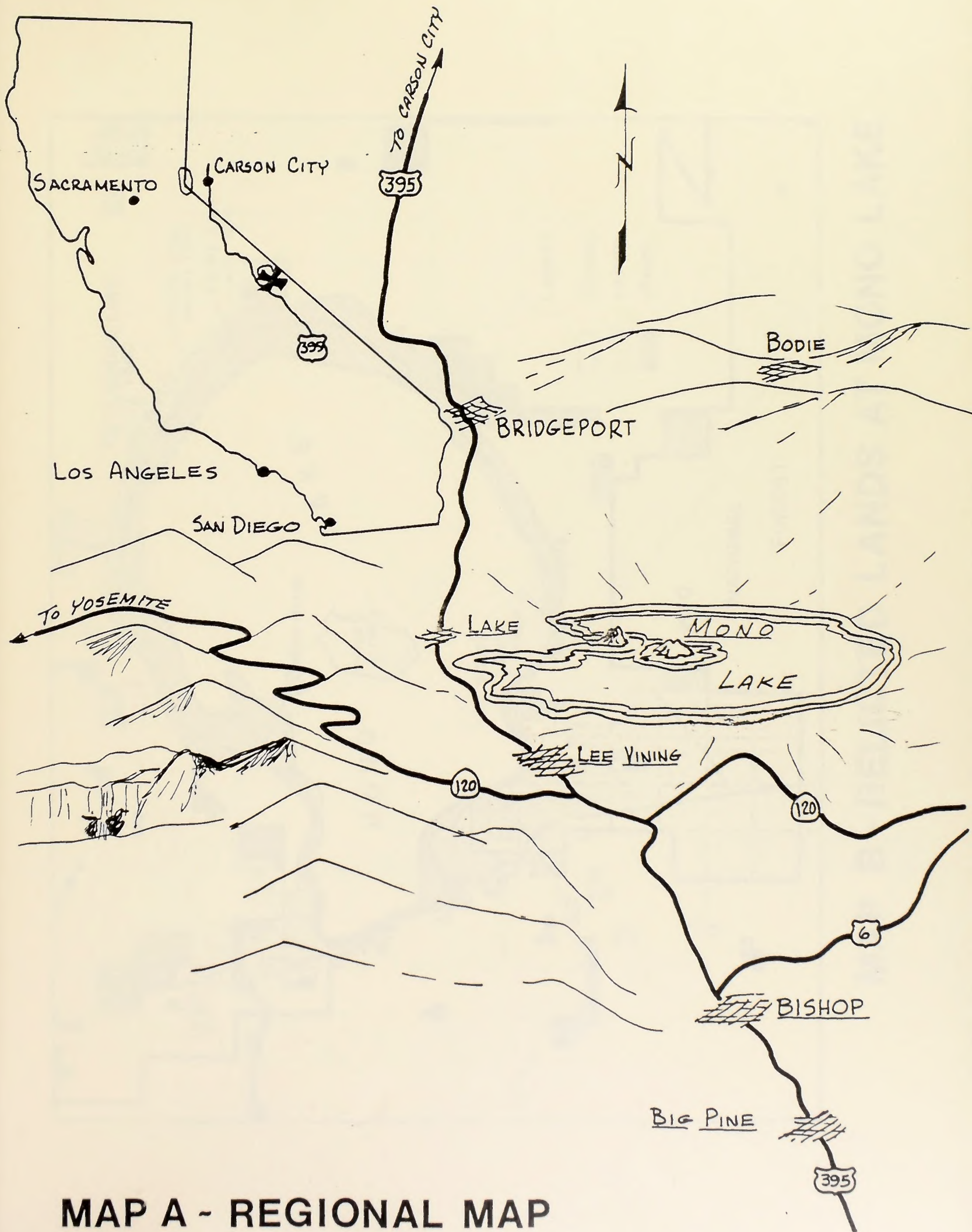
V. Budget Considerations

The following represents budgetary needs for fiscal year 1982. The budgetary needs are based on implementation of Planned Actions in Section IV. The ultimate development of integrated area element plans into a comprehensive management program for Mono Lake relicted lands and adjoining areas will require funding beyond fiscal year 1982. However, until area element plan identification and management needs are determined, budget requirements will remain unknown. Projected budgets, as a result of fiscal year 1982's resource monitoring effort, will be forthcoming.

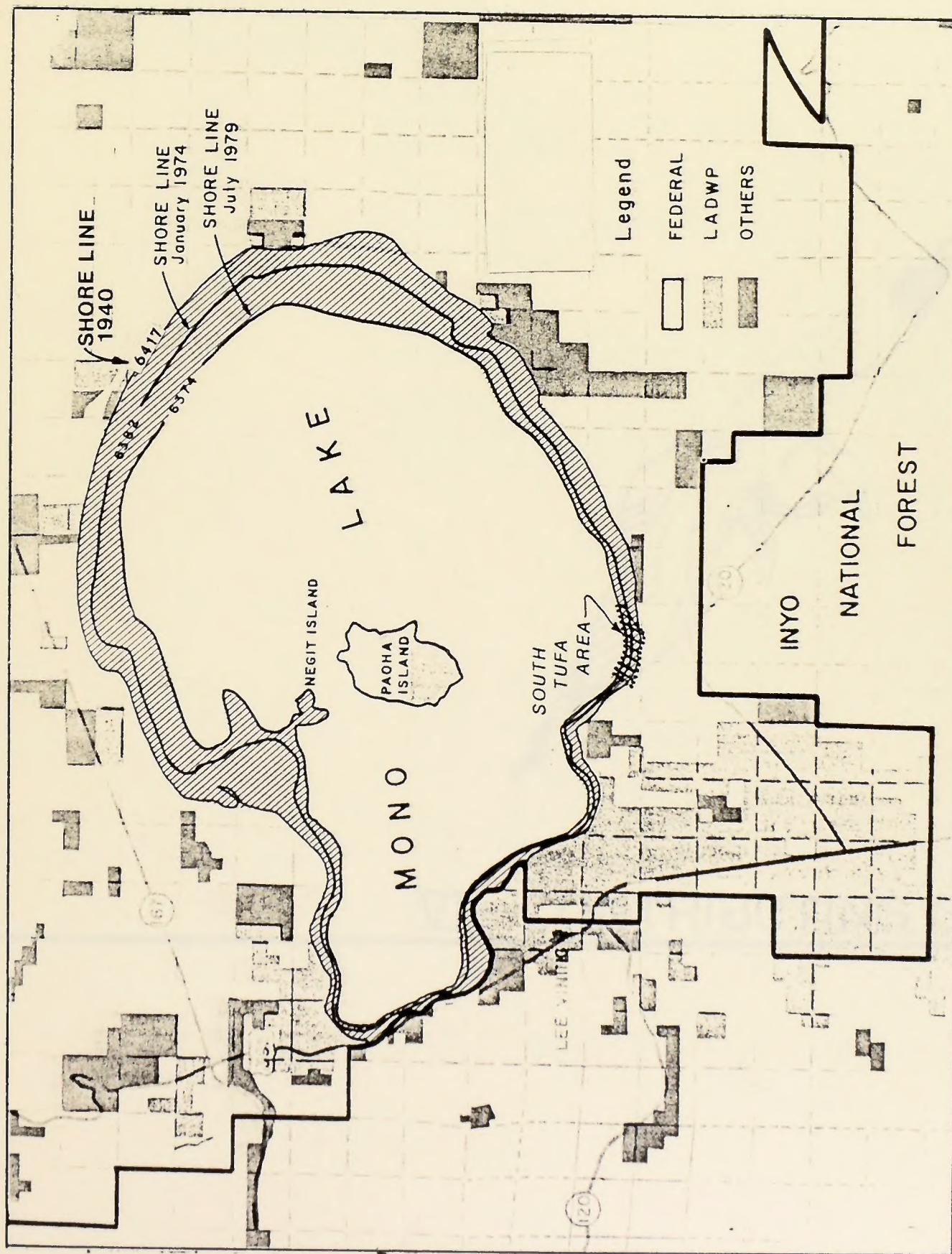
<u>FISCAL YEAR 1982</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
1. Initiate Bureau Presence on Relicted Lands and Adjoining Areas at Mono Lake (hire a seasonal VSS from May to November)	\$15,000 (6 wm @\$2500)
2. Visitor Services Equipment - 4x4 vehicle, tools, etc.	\$ 9,000
3. Visitor Services Safety/1st Aid Training	\$ 500
4. Resource Identification Incidental Costs, Photo Development, Printing	\$ <u>100</u>
TOTAL FY82	\$24,600

VI MAPS





MAP A - REGIONAL MAP



MAP B - RELICTED LANDS AT MONO LAKE



VII CONTRIBUTING STAFF

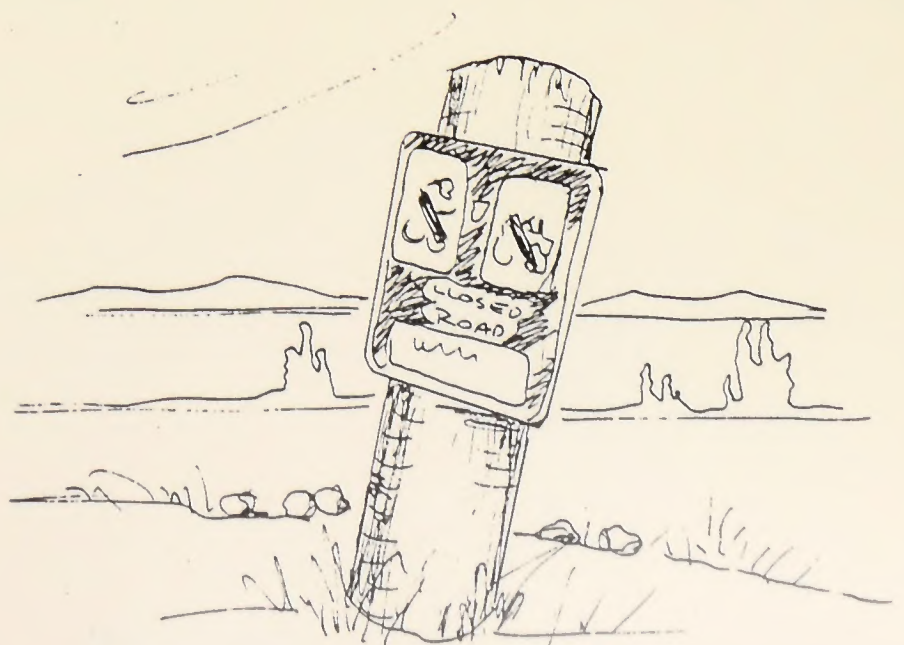
VII. Contributing Staff

The following specialists formed the team for the Interim Visitor Management Plan for Public Lands in Mono Basin.

1. Robert Beehler
Visitor Services Specialist
Bishop Resource Area
2. Joseph P. Pollini
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Bishop Resource Area
3. Virginia Willis
Illustrator
California State Office
4. John Skibinski
Lead Visitor Services Specialist
California State Office

VII BIBLIOGRAPHY

VIII BIBLIOGRAPHY



VIII. Bibliography

Gaines, David and the Mono Lake Committee. Mono Lake Guidebook. Kutsavi Books, Lee Vining. 1981.

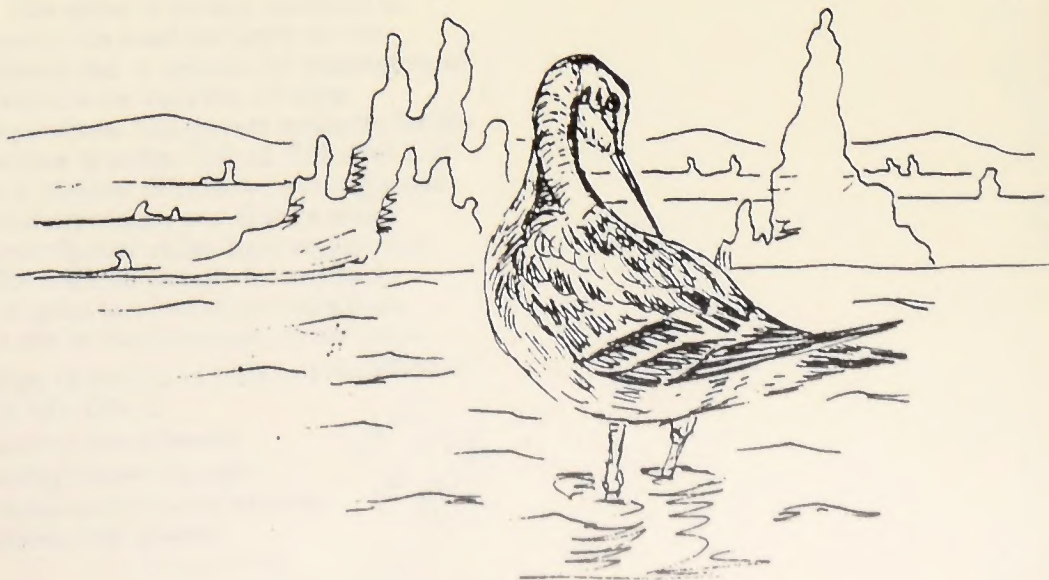
Interagency Task Force on Mono Lake. Report of Interagency Task Force on Mono Lake. Los Angeles, Ca. 1979.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Los Angeles Water Rights in and the Impact of the Department's Operations on Mono Lake. City of Los Angeles, Ca. 1974.

Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (part 1000 to end). Published by the Office of the Federal Register, General Services Administration, Washington D.C. 1980.

Bureau of Land Management, Bishop Resource Area Office. Unit Resource Analysis - Bodie and Benton Planning Areas. Bishop, Ca. 1980 and 1981.

IX APPENDICES



APPENDIX I

The following citations were listed in Volume 45 of the Federal Register. The first citation was listed in issue number 51 on March 13, 1980; the second in issue number 79 on April 22, 1981.

California; Seasonal Closure of Public Lands

Notice is hereby given that all public lands and waters within 1 mile of Negit and Paoha Islands, including all or portions of Section 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 36; T. 2N, R. 26E, MDM; Section 18, 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, T. 2N, R. 27E, MDM; Section 1, T. 1N, R. 26E, MDM; Sections 5 and 8, T. 1N, R. 27E, MDM; are hereby closed to public use and entry except for authorized personnel, from April 1, to August 1 of each year.

The purpose of this closure and use restriction is to provide solitude for nesting California Gulls.

Authorization for closure is under Title 43, CFR 6010.4 and will be in effect until revoked or not longer than 49 years.

This closure has been concurred in by California Department of Fish and Game, Reg. 5; Los Angeles Department of Water and Power; and the State Lands Commission of California. Records of concurrence are on file in the Bakersfield District Office.

Dated: March 5, 1980.

Louie A. Boll,

District Manager.

[FR Doc. 80-700 Filed 3-12-80; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-04-M

California; Seasonal Closure of Public Lands Amendment

The Bureau of Land Management, Bakersfield District Office, in a notice in the Federal Register on March 13, 1980 (45 FR 16354), announced a seasonal closure of public lands and waters within one mile of Negit and Paoha Islands to public use and entry.

The notice is hereby amended to correct the cited authority for the closure and to include the description of penalties for violation of these regulations. The correct authority for the closure is under Title 43, CFR 8304.1. It is a criminal offense to knowingly and willfully violate any closure order promulgated under these regulations. The criminal penalty for any such violation is a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 12 months or both as prescribed by 43 CFR 8384.2.

Carol A. Klinkerkecht,
Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 80-12357 Filed 4-21-80; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-04-M

Vol 45
No 79
4/22/81



United States Department of the Interior

8223
CA-933

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE OFFICE
Federal Office Building
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

AUG 14 1981

Memorandum

To: DM, Bakersfield

From: Chief, Division of Resources

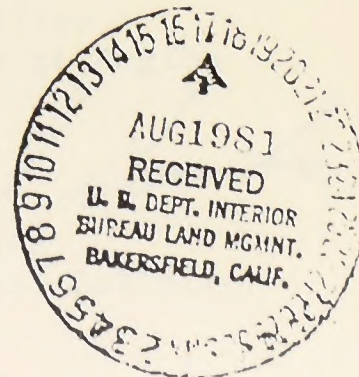
Subject: Mono Lake Relicted Lands - Solicitor's Opinion

Enclosed is a copy of the recent Opinion on the ownership of the relicted lands of Mono Lake.

Please be guided by this for purposes of committing Federal expenditures and initiating cooperative agreements on these lands.

Enclosure:
Solicitor's Opinion

cc: WO 430
WO 240
Chief, Branch of L&M
Chief, Branch of BR
Chief, Branch of RSA





United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION
~~SACRAMENTO REGION~~
2800 COTTAGE WAY
ROOM E-2753
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95825

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In Reply
Refer to:
SLSomach, Ext. 4751

August 5, 1981

Memorandum

To: State Director, Bureau of Land Management
From: Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region
Subject: Opinion - Mono Lake Relicted Lands

This responds to your memorandum of July 6, 1981, in which you asked for my opinion as to whether the relict lands developed by the declining level of Mono Lake were federal lands. It is my opinion that these lands are federal lands and that they must be administered as such.

As you are aware, the ownership of these lands has been contested in a quiet title action brought by the State of California. State of California, ex rel. State Lands Commission v. United States, Civil No. 80-696-LKK (E.D. Cal.). The United States' position in this litigation is consistent with the view I have forwarded here.

In the event that you desire a more detailed explanation of the United States' position in the above captioned litigation please contact me at (FTS) 468-4751 so a meeting can be arranged.

Charles R. Renda
Regional Solicitor
Pacific Southwest Region

Stuart L. Somach
for the Regional Solicitor

APPENDIX III
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Copies of the draft plan were distributed to all management agencies and groups currently involved in the Mono Basin planning process. All comments with the exception of those of the Mono Lake Committee were minimal and relayed verbally.

The following letter was received from the Mono Lake Committee. All appropriate concerns and comments were incorporated into the document.



THE MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

P O Box 29
Lee Vining, CA 93541
(714) 647-6386

1355 Westwood Blvd/Suite 212
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 477-8229

February 4, 1982

Mr. Joe Pollini
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Bureau of Land Management
8/3 North Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Joe,

Thank you for giving us a copy of the draft Interim Visitor Management Plan for the Mono Basin for our review. After reading through the plan, we have no major comments, and heartily endorse the plan. It is obviously the result of much careful and competent work, and we congratulate you.

The comments we have are the following:

1. Page 1, B, Plan Area, end of second paragraph. Lee Vining serves more than residents; it mainly serves the tourists during the winter (skiing) and summer (sightseeing).
2. Page 3, A Objectives 2. Swimming and boating should be included as recreational objectives. Many people enjoy these activities although at present they are inconvenient. The beaches set up for swimming at Great Salt Lake, for instance, are very popular.
3. South Tufa Section, page 2, A, Objectives. Again: swimming and boating should be included.
4. Page 2, Constraints 2. We are pleased to see the dust problem recognized.
5. Page 3, Administrative Actions. We agree that the area should be closed to mineral entry.
6. Page 19 Living Components. The correct species name for the Ephydra at the Lake is hians.

We suggest you mention some more exciting mammals such as the long tailed weasel and delete "other rodents" as rodents are not generally appealing to the suburban public.

7. Signs should be put up at the junction of Highways 395 and 120 east.

Most of these comments are minor. We feel the overall plan is excellent.

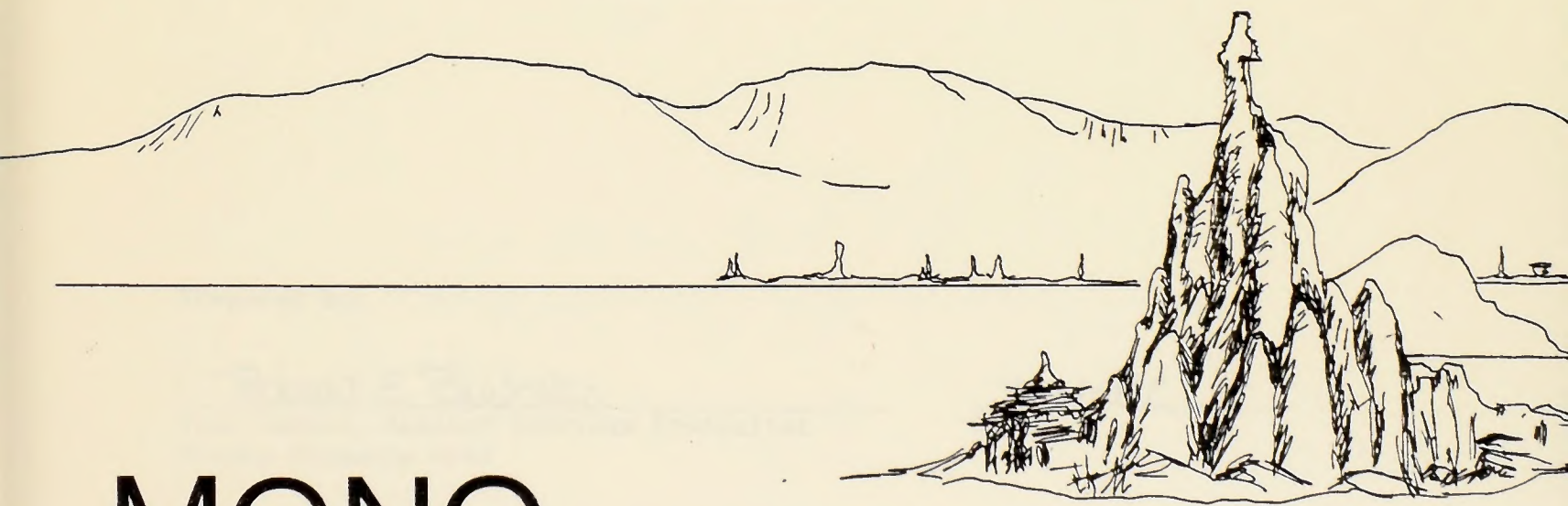
We thank you for including us in the review process, and would like to continue to help in any way we can to implement the plan. BLM was the first agency to recognize the values around Mono Lake, and formulate a concrete, workable proposal to protect the resource while making it accessible to the public.

Sincerely,

David Gaines

David Gaines, Chairperson

cc. to James Morrison, Ed Haste



MONO LAKE

INTERIM VISITOR USE PLAN
FOR
SOUTH TUFA

INTERIM VISITOR USE PLAN

FOR SOUTH TUFA

December 1981

Prepared by

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Bakersfield District

Bishop Resource Area

Prepared by:

Robert E. Beehler
Team Leader, Visitor Services Specialist
Bishop Resource Area

3-11-82
Date

Reviewed by:

James D. Mowin
Area Manager
Bishop Resource Area

3-11-82
Date

Reviewed by:

David W. Lamb
District Manager
Bakersfield District

3-19-82
Date

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I INTRODUCTION



INTERIM VISITOR USE PLAN FOR SOUTH TUFA

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This area element plan of the Interim Visitor Management Plan for Public Lands in Mono Basin establishes a coordinated program of recreation management actions to be implemented by the Bureau of Land Management at the South Tufa Area of Mono Lake (see Map A on page 11). This plan is dynamic and interim in concept to allow for additional data accumulation, changing public concerns and environmental values, and varying management responsibilities. Yearly status summary reports summarizing resource changes, management activity and visitor use at South Tufa Area will be compiled and inserted as an addendum to this plan.

B. Plan Area

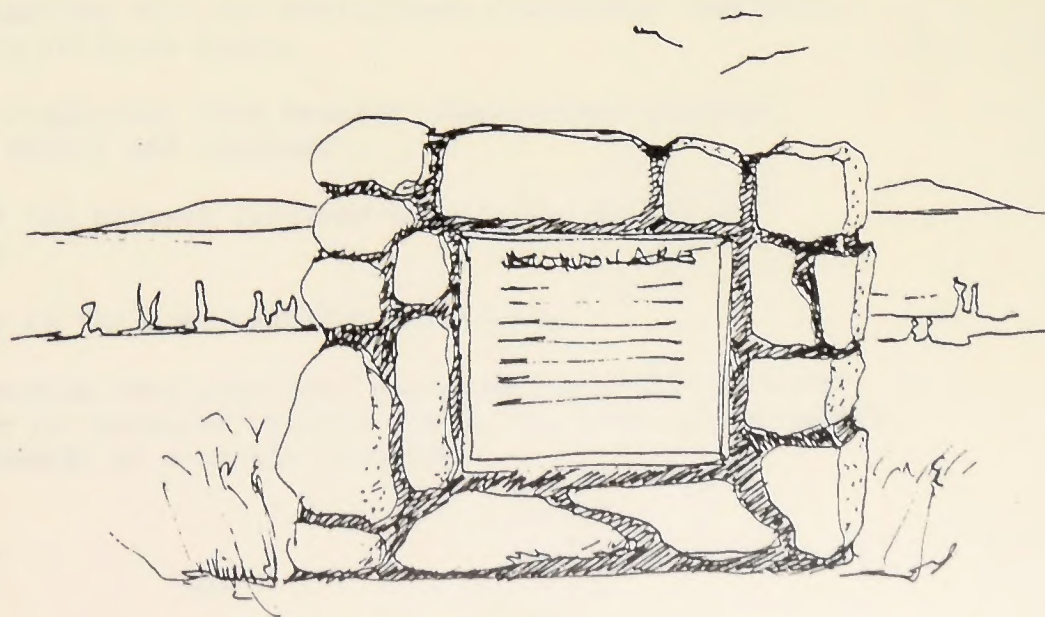
The South Tufa Area addressed by this plan comprises a small portion of relict lands around Mono Lake (see Map B on page 12). Recent demands upon the area's natural values have necessitated the development of a site specific management plan.

The South Tufa Area is located along the south shore of Mono Lake, 1.2 miles north of State Highway 120. A County maintained road connects the State Highway and the plan area. The plan area encompasses approximately 200 acres of public land that is located on the exposed shoreline of Mono Lake (see Map C on page 13). Receiving approximately 90% of visitation in the Basin, the area contains many interesting, natural features which attract thousands of visitors each year. Large spires of calcarious formations contrasting with the sky-blue lake water form a spectacular visual image. Within this relatively small area, several fresh water springs provide drinking water to the wildlife in the area. Because of this water source, viewing of wildlife is considered excellent.

C. Management Background

Within this plan area the general management activities have to date, been primarily related to the ongoing resource activities of grazing, mining, recreation use, and wildlife management. However, within the last five years an unprecedented number of visitors have begun to utilize the recreation values contained within this area. In response to this, the Bureau, in 1980, initiated field actions committing itself to protect this area's natural values while providing for compatible visitor use opportunities. For example, the area was closed to vehicular access (see Appendix I for copy of designation notice), regulatory and safety signs were installed, a ranger patrol presence was initiated, on-site interpretive services were provided as well as emergency assistance to area visitors. In 1981, this capability was expanded by hiring a Visitor Use Specialist for the area and utilizing Young Adult Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association and other Bureau personnel in the area. Visitor use data was also collected. A forthcoming Status Summary Report presenting management actions in 1981 at South Tufa will be provided as an addendum to this plan.

II-III GOAL & MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS



II. Goal

Manage visitor use to protect and preserve the natural values of the South Tufa Area.

A. Objectives

1. Provide adequate use supervision for protection of facilities and natural values, visitor safety and protection, visitor information and assistance, and collection of visitor use data.

2. Develop and enhance resource compatible high quality opportunities for recreational uses such as picnicking, sightseeing, interpretation, and (dispersed) primitive camping by providing and maintaining facilities to accommodate these uses.

3. Initiate administrative and field actions designed to protect the area's natural values as well as provide enforcement capability. This may include withdrawal of the area from mineral entry, and under Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 8363.2, and 8363.3 apply regulations prohibiting destruction or defacement of the area's natural values, authorize special uses, such as scientific research, commercial activities, Native American activities, etc. (see Appendix II).

4. Manage vehicle access by designating specific areas and roads under Title 43 CFR 8342 (see Appendix III).

5. Manage visitor use to the extent that it does not compromise the integrity of ongoing research.

III. Constraints

Constraints inhibiting full management of the area include:

A. The resolution of the pending management agreement between the Bureau and the State Parks for relicted lands around Mono Lake.

B. The changing lake level and the following associated elements:

1. The pending litigation with the State Lands Commission regarding contested ownership of the relicted lands.

2. Dust problems, originating from exposed alkali-laden relicted lands, may affect public safety and enjoyment.

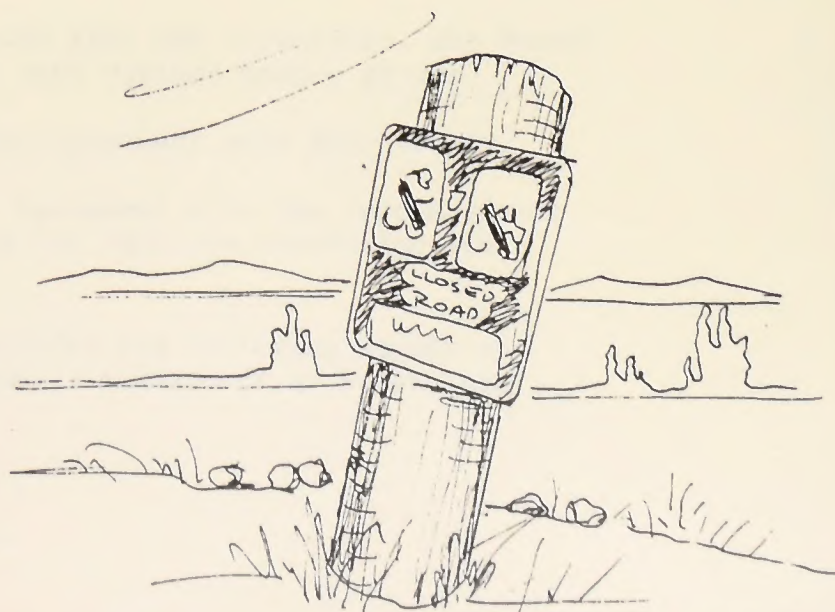
3. The stability of the natural features in relation to visitor and environmental impacts.

4. Possible impacts to the area wildlife population.

C. Special interest concerns have generated overwhelming public interest and controversy resulting in increased visitor use to the area; subsequently resulting in divergent demands on a single resource.

IV-V

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY & PLANNED ACTIONS



IV. Administrative Policy

1. Manage special use authorizations for the South Tufa closure area according to the following criteria:

a. Authorized use is for enhancing or maintaining the area's natural values by means of research, administrative or other authorized purposes associated with protecting and/or enhancing the area's environmental values.

b. The authorized use or activity will only be permitted if the activity cannot be conducted in an area outside the closed area.

c. Each proposed activity will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Area Manager to determine compliance with or exceptions to the above criteria.

d. Any vehicle authorized to enter the closed area will remain on specified routes and will also be marked by appropriate signing as an official vehicle. Vehicle use will be limited to early morning, late evening, or other periods of low visitation.

2. Implement regulations and enforcement measures prohibiting the disturbance, defacement, displacement or interference of identified sensitive natural values (Title 43 CFR 8363.2).

V. Planned Actions

A. Administrative

1. Withdraw the South Tufa Area, which consists of approximately 200 acres, from all forms of mineral entry in order to protect the natural values.

2. All special use authorizations will be managed according to aforementioned administrative policy. Commercial use activities would not be authorized if the proposed activity would degrade the area's natural values and/or visitors' enjoyment or use of the area.

3. Prohibit all forms of camping (except under authorization) within the closed area (Title 43 CFR 8363.3).

4. In order to achieve the stated goal and objectives, the Bureau will coordinate the following actions with various agency groups.

a. Initiate Law Enforcement Agreement with Mono County.

b. Seek an administrative agreement with the Inyo National Forest to provide supplemental patrols for resource protection and visitor safety.

c. Actively pursue and consider the following agency and individual concerns regarding the Bureau's management at South Tufa.

- 1) Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- 2) Mono Lake Committee
- 3) Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce
- 4) Inyo National Forest
- 5) National Park Service
- 6) Mono County
- 7) State of California
- 8) Concerned individuals and other interest groups

5. Implement measures to eliminate livestock activities from the area.

a. Initiate trespass actions against grazing operators.

B. Visitor Services

The Visitor Services Program at South Tufa will consist of several action elements designed to protect the area's unique resources and, at the same time, provide the public with resource compatible services which will assist and benefit visitors in the use and appreciation of public lands. These services include:

1. Visitor Assistance and Protection

The Bureau has a management responsibility for visitor safety and treatment of injuries. Therefore, all visitor services personnel will be required to obtain a valid first aid card and certification in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (C.P.R.). Emergency Medical Technician (E.M.T.) training is also suggested. In the event of needed professional assistance, the Mono County Sheriff's dispatcher would be contacted via two-way radio by Bureau personnel to activate emergency transportation and aid. To minimize response time and facilitate awareness of site location, appropriate site location maps will be distributed to all emergency service centers located in Mono County.

To insure proper visitor protection, patrols will be conducted during the normal field season of May 1 to November 15 of each year during the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. inclusively, seven days a week. During heavy use periods, such as weekends and holidays, a minimum of two visitor services specialists will be necessary to adequately deter visitor impacts.

2. Resource Use Protection

In addition to providing visitor assistance and protection, patrol personnel will monitor use to insure protection of the area's unique natural values. All patrols will be conducted by Bureau personnel or where otherwise authorized, and therefore will necessitate a major commitment for funding the required manpower. To properly enforce the regulations under Title 43 CFR 8363.2 at South Tufa, it will be

necessary that all patrol personnel are familiar with reporting requirements as per the BLM 8360 Manual. Furthermore, it will be necessary to re-establish delegation authority for Bureau enforcement (both citation and arrest) and either supplement the current patrol capability with an individual from the California Desert District or train current Bishop Resource Area recreation staff specialists and request subsequent full-range law enforcement authority.

The vehicle designation closure of the area under Title 43 CFR 8341.2 and prohibition of overnight camping under Title 43 CFR 8363.3 are field action steps that have been taken to provide immediate protection to the area's sensitive natural features. Additional management to protect the area's natural values and insure compliance with the special use authorization criteria will be applied.

Actions planned to minimize degradation to the area from incidental visitation include access road and parking area maintenance, construction of a post and cable barrier around key wildlife habitat areas, barricade construction around the perimeter of parking areas, a boardwalk installation over down tufa and through fragile castellated sand tufa areas, application of measures such as interpretive signing, etc. designed to curtail tufa climbing, and placement of sanitary facilities at heavily used parking areas.

A resource monitoring program will be implemented to identify changing resource values as the lake line recedes, to identify additional management measures needed to protect the area's natural values, and also determine required visitor services as use and resource values dictate. The monitoring program data will be derived from Bureau patrol personnel field observations, photo trend studies, visitor interactions, and scientific/educational community input. A monitoring plan providing direction and monitoring techniques will be forthcoming and added to this document as an addendum by April 15, 1982.

3. Visitor Information

Directional/safety signs have been erected to provide the visitor the knowledge necessary to access the South Tufa Area in a safe and expedient manner. However, all signs when eventually replaced will be according to the BLM Manual 9130 to standardize construction and content (see Illustrations in Appendix IV).

Interpretive signs will be designed to explain the unique and fragile nature of the geological and environmental values located at the South Tufa Area. Panels containing the interpretive message will be located at the primary access point located at the trailhead parking area (see Map C). This is the historic access point to South Tufa and a majority of visitors enter the area from this point. By concentrating the interpretive message at this location, the probability that the message will be read is increased greatly, thus ensuring an increased understanding of the area's value which will result in better protection of its natural features. Less elaborate supplemental interpretive signs will be installed at secondary access parking areas (see Map C). Minimal interpretive measures, such as post and leaflet trail as well as

handicapped access facilities, will be developed inside the closed area to facilitate understanding and knowledge of site specific values. Visitor use data will be generated from field patrol reports, use of site registers and traffic counters. An interpretive program will be developed by April 15, 1982.

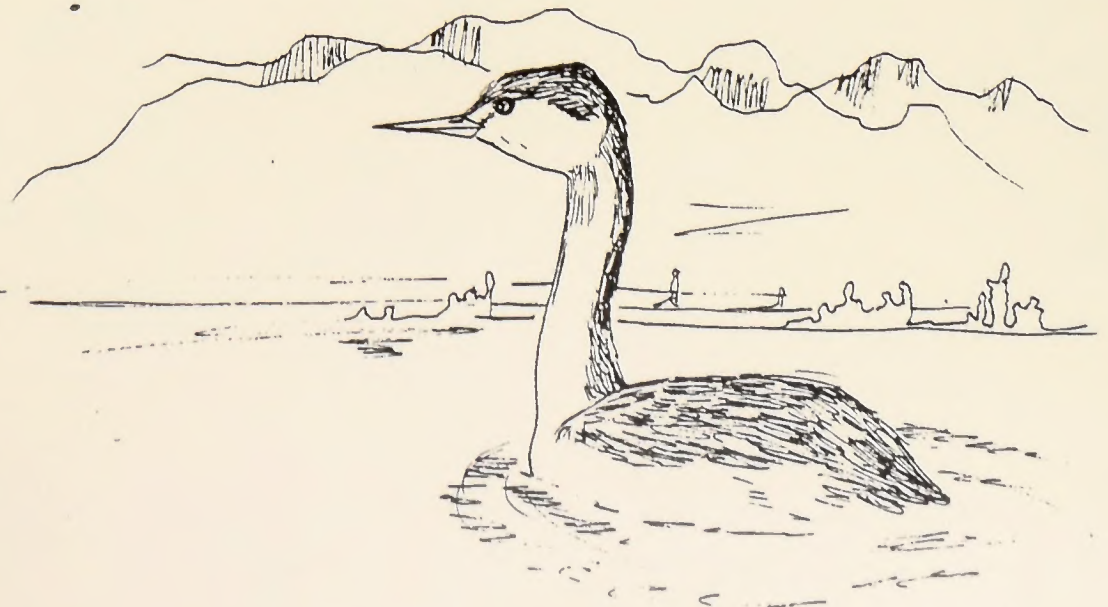
Bureau personnel involved in the management of the area will act as interpreters on an impromptu basis. Concurrently, the field trip program offered by the Mono Lake Committee and the Inyo National Forest will be identified at the information board displayed at the trailhead parking area.

4. Volunteer Program

The Bureau will solicit volunteer assistance from various group organizations such as the Owens Valley Conservation Center, the Boy Scouts of America as well as other interested groups and individuals. Volunteer projects will include parking barricade installation, boardwalk construction, interpretive panel installation, visitor services, etc.

VI BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

VI BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS



VI. Budget Considerations

The following represents budgetary needs on a fiscal year basis until the end of fiscal year 1984. All items are listed in the priority in which they should be performed. They are primarily referenced to Planned Actions in Section 5. Due to the uncertainty in the actual level of funding, it is quite possible that less than the requested amount will be forthcoming. If a partial funding is received, it will result in a shifting of the unfunded workload to the succeeding fiscal year.

Unless otherwise noted, all estimates are for materials only. Labor costs are not figured into estimates.

Asterisks(*) behind a cost indicate that the project should be coordinated with groups wishing to do volunteer work. Volunteer projects afford the Bureau a unique opportunity to not only get projects implemented with little expenditure of labor costs, but also to keep the public informed and involved in public land management. Frequent interaction with user groups will enhance communication with public lands users and improve the Bureau's management and public image.

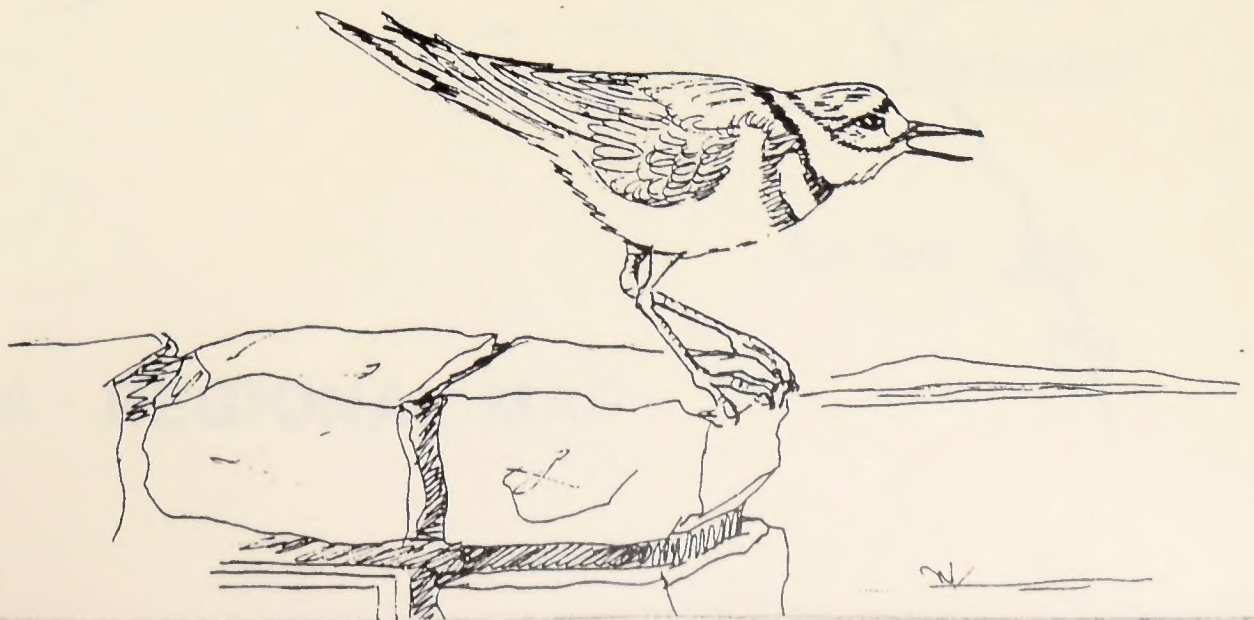
<u>FISCAL YEAR 1982 - FIRST PHASE</u>	<u>PLAN REFERENCE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
1. Initiate Visitor Services Resource Protection at South Tufa (from May to November)	5B(1&2)	¹ \$37,500 (15 wm @ \$2500)
2. Visitor Services Equipment - 4x4 vehicle, 8 channel radio, tools, etc.	5B(1&2)	¹ \$10,600
3. Visitor Services Safety/ 1st Aid Training (\$500/person)	5B(1)	¹ \$1,000
4. Housing for Visitor Services Personnel (trailer space rental, butane gas, utilities, etc.)	----	\$1,200
5. Provide Sanitary Facilities at Parking Areas (rent and pump port-a-potties)	5B(2)	\$1,800
6. Construct and Install Barrier Materials at South Tufa Trailhead Parking Area	5B(2)	\$2,000*
7. Initiate Management Agreement with State Parks	3A	\$2,500 (1 wm @ \$2500)
8. Install Post and Cable Barrier at Wildlife Research Area (30 posts, 200 feet of cable)	5B(2)	\$850*
9. Provide Visitor Services: a)Regulatory/Safety Sign Installation (50 posts, signs, nuts, bolts, etc.)	5B(3)	\$250*
b)Install Interpretive Panels at South Tufa Trailhead Parking Area	5B(3)	\$1,500*
c)Install site register at South Tufa Trailhead Parking Area	5B(3)	\$25*
10. Process Mining Withdrawal (State Office support will be required)	5A(1)	\$4,800 (2 wm @ \$2400)
11. Initiate Law Enforcement Agreement with Mono County	5A(4a)	\$12,000
12. Maintain Access Roads and Three Parking Areas (Forest Service Contract)	5B(2)	\$600
13. Install Two Traffic Counters	5B(3)	\$700*
14. Implement Resources Monitoring Program (film purchase, developing, printing, etc.)	5B(2)	<u>\$100*</u>
TOTAL FY 82		\$77,425

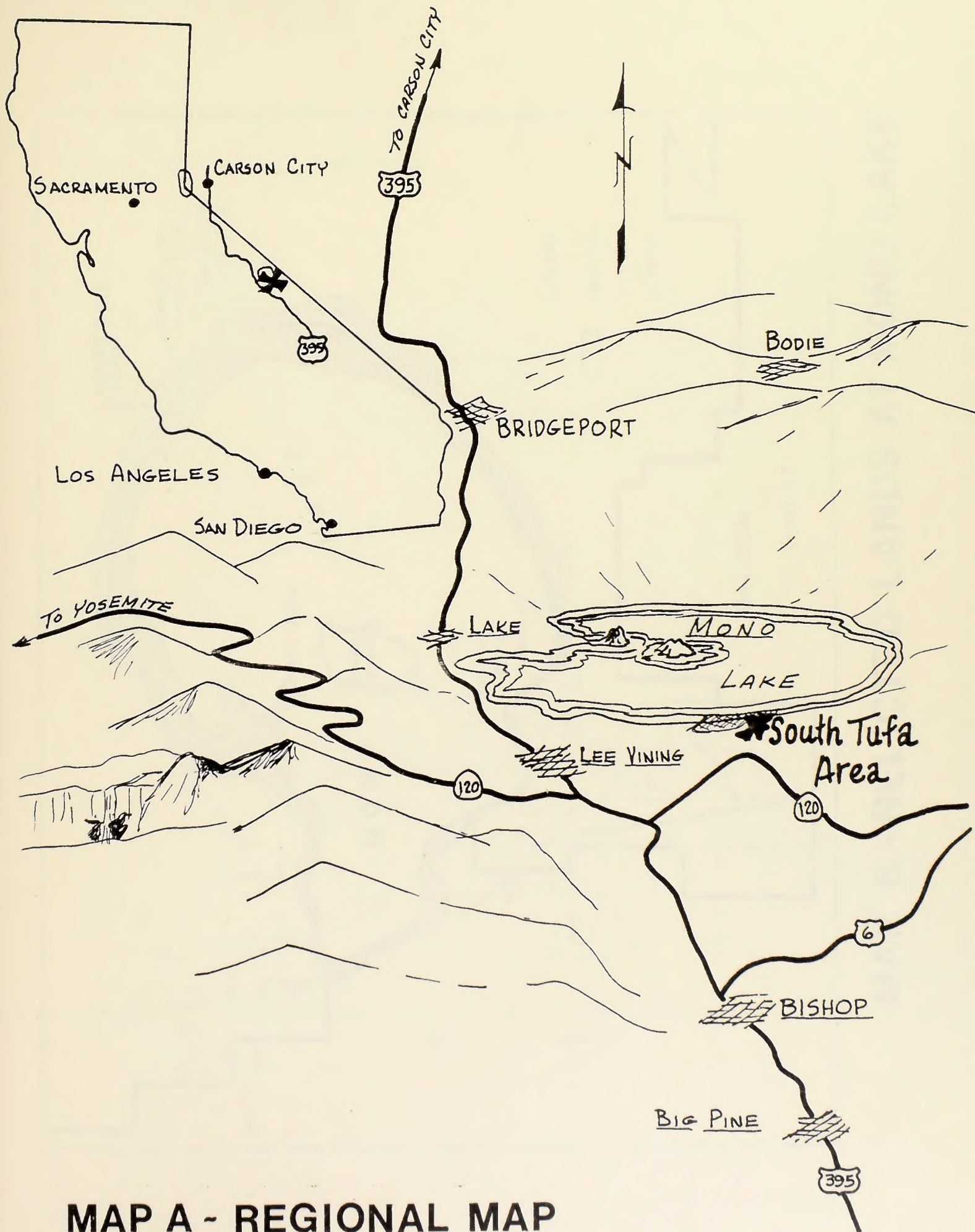
¹ Reinstated ranger patrols outside the California Desert District and/or use of Bishop Resource Area Recreation Staff Specialists would reduce these costs.

<u>FISCAL YEAR 1983 - SECOND PHASE</u>	<u>PLAN REFERENCE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
1. Maintain Visitor Services Resource Protection at South Tufa (from May to November)	5B(1&2)	\$42,000 (15 wmn @\$2800)
2. Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance/Repair	5B(1&2)	\$1,000
3. Visitor Services Safety/1st Aid Training (\$500/person)	5B(1)	\$1,000
4. Housing for Visitor Services Personnel (trailer space rental, butane gas, utilities, etc.)	----	\$1,500
5. Provide Sanitary Facilities at Parking Areas (rent and pump port-a-potties)	5B(2)	\$2,000
6. Install Boardwalk & Barriers (post and cable - ½ mile trail) at Fragile Tufa Areas	5B(2)	\$10,000*
7. Maintenance/Replacement of Barrier Materials at South Tufa Trailhead Parking Area	5B(2)	\$200*
8. Maintenance/Replacement of Barrier Materials at Wildlife Research Area	5B(2)	\$150*
9. Provide Visitor Services		
a)Regulatory/Safety Sign Maintenance/Replacement	5B(3)	\$75*
b)Maintenance/Replacement of Interpretive Panels at South Tufa Trailhead	5B(3)	\$500*
c)Install Secondary Interpretive Panels and Site Registers at Secondary Parking Areas	5B(3)	\$1,000*
d)Construct Post and Leaflet Trail; Leaflet Printing	5B(3)	\$300*
10. Construct and Install Barrier Materials at Secondary Parking Areas	5B(2)	\$3,500*
11. Maintain Law Enforcement Agreement with Mono County	5A(4a)	\$13,000
12. Maintain Resources Monitoring Program	5B(2)	<u>\$135*</u>
TOTAL FY 83		\$77,180

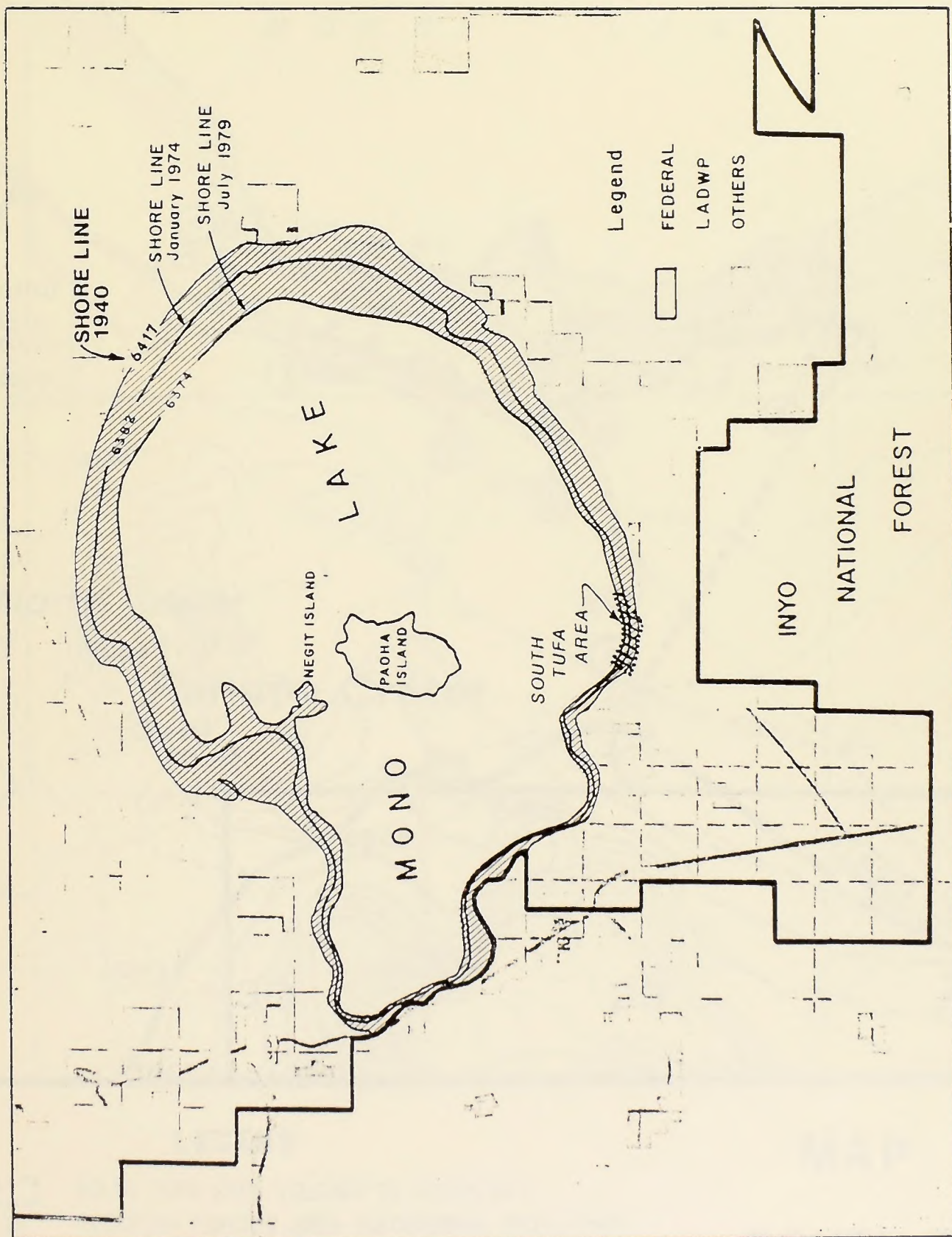
<u>FISCAL YEAR 1984</u>	<u>PLAN REFERENCE</u>	<u>COSTS</u>
1. Maintain Bureau Presence at South Tufa (from May to November)	5B(1&2)	\$43,500 (15 wmm @\$2900)
2. Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance/Replacement	5B(1&2)	\$2,000
3. Visitor Services Safety/1st Aid Training (\$500/person)	5B(1)	\$1,000
4. Housing for Visitor Services Personnel (trailer space rental, butane gas, utilities, etc.)	----	\$1,800
5. Provide Sanitary Facilities at Parking Areas (rent and pump port-a-potties)	5B(2)	\$2,200
6. Maintenance/Replacement of Barrier Materials at Parking Areas	5B(2)	\$300*
7. Maintenance/Replacement of Boardwalks & Barriers	5B(2)	\$1,500*
8. Maintenance of Access Roads and Parking Areas	5B(2)	\$800
9. Maintenance/Replacement of Barrier Materials at Wildlife Research Area	5B(2)	\$175*
10. Provide Visitor Services		
a)Regulatory/Safety Sign Maintenance/Replacement	5B(3)	\$75*
b)Maintenance/Replacement of Interpretive Panels and Site Registers in Parking Areas	5B(3)	\$750*
c)Post & Leaflet Trail Maintenance; Printing Costs	5B(3)	\$150*
d)Harden Physical Site Access Route into South Tufa Closed Area for Handicapped Wheelchair Individuals	5B(3)	\$600*
11. Maintain Law Enforcement Agreement with Mono County	5A(4a)	\$14,000
12. Maintain Resource Monitoring Program	5B(2)	<u>\$170*</u>
TOTAL FY 84		\$69,020

VII MAPS

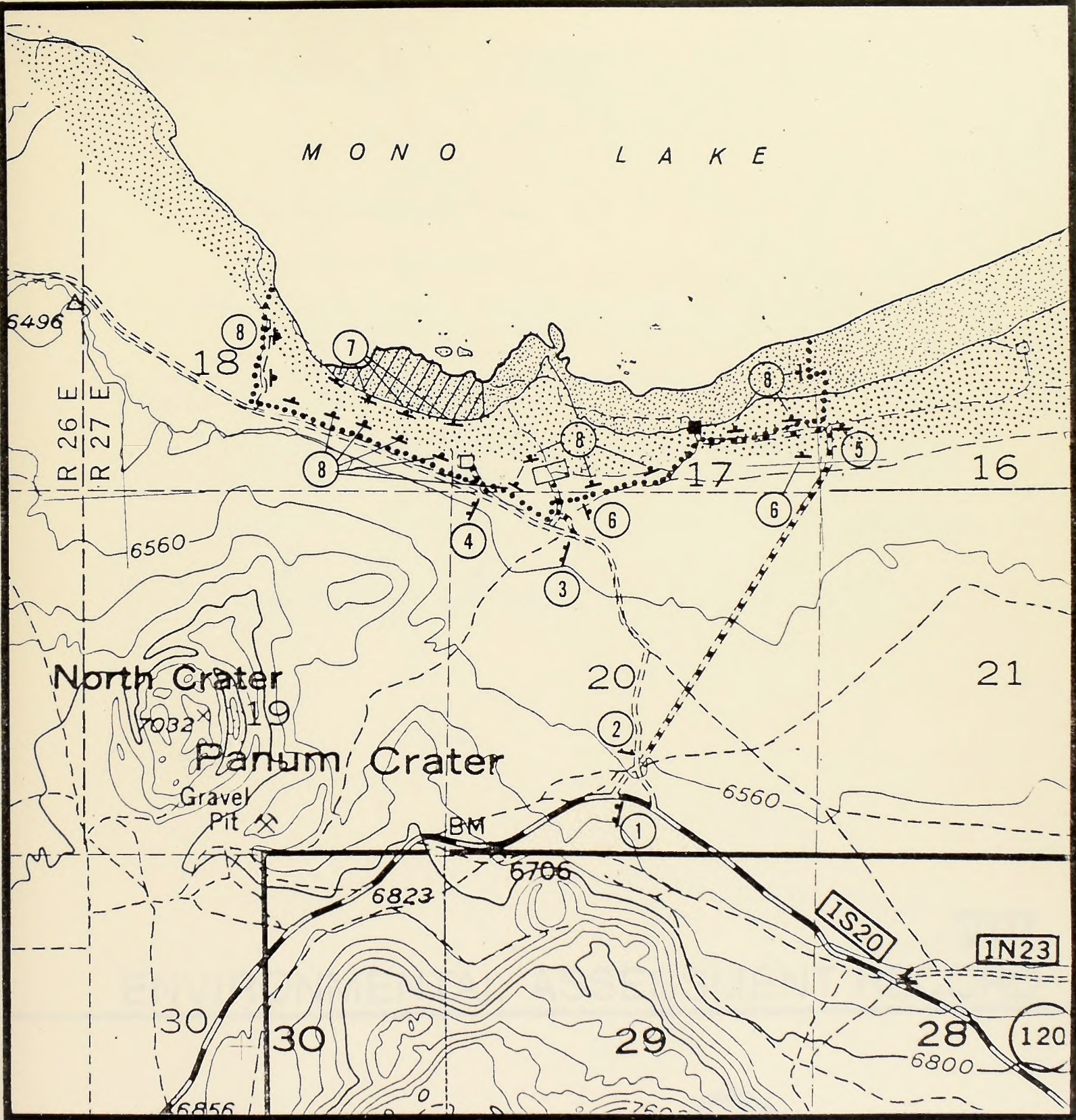











MAP A - REGIONAL MAP



MAP B - RELICTED LANDS AT MONO LAKE



LEGEND

-  SOUTH TUFA AREA (CLOSED TO VEHICLES)
-  OVERFLOW PARKING AREA (GEOTHERMAL DRILL PAD)
-  SOUTH TUFA SCENIC TRAILHEAD AND PARKING AREA
-  NAVY BEACH PARKING AREA
-  WILDLIFE RESEARCH AREA
-  ACCESS ROADS (TO BE MAINTAINED BY THE BUREAU)
-  INDICATES LOCATION OF SAFETY/REGULATORY SIGNS (SEE APPENDIX D FOR SIGN TEXT AND NUMBER KEY)

MAP C

SOUTH TUFA AREA

VIII

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RECORD



Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Bishop Resource Area
873 N. Main St., Suite 201
Bishop, CA 93514

IN REPLY REFER TO:

EA #CA-010-1-B33
(C-017.4)

To : District Manager, C-010

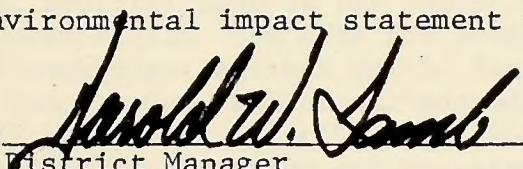
Date:

FROM : Area Manager, Bishop

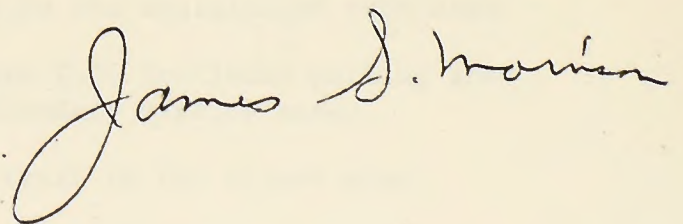
SUBJECT: Decision Document Addendum and Amendment to the South Tufa
Scenic Area Visitor Use Plan Environmental Assessment

1. I recommend that the proposed management actions to facilitate resource protection be approved.
2. The identified management actions are harmonious with the proposed land use planning decisions and the parent environmental assessment.
3. An environmental impact statement is not needed for adopting this action.

I concur:


District Manager

3-19-82
Date





United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO
EA #CA-010-1-B33
C-017.4

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Bishop Resource Area
873 N. Main St., Suite 201
Bishop, CA 93514

DEC 21 1981

MEMORANDUM

To: Area Manager, Bishop Resource Area

From: Outdoor Recreation Planner

Subject: Addendum and Amendment to South Tufa Scenic Area Visitor
Plan Environmental Assessment

Due to recent modifications in the South Tufa Scenic Visitor Plan (now entitled Interim Visitor Use Plan for South Tufa), the following represents new proposed management actions in the South Tufa Area. As new management actions are recommended, additional addenda will be provided. The original Environmental Assessment is still applicable and reference should be made to it for specific information not contained herein. Both the original Environmental Assessment and Decision Document are attachments to this memo. The original South Tufa Scenic Area Plan, however, is located in the Bishop Resource Area casefiles.

I. Description of Proposed Action

Implement the following resource protection facilities:

- A. Install a post and cable barricade around the perimeter of the Wildlife Research Area.
- B. Install a boardwalk over down tufa and in the castellated tufa area.
- C. Install interpretive panels at the South Tufa Trailhead parking area and supplemental interpretive signing at secondary parking areas.
- D. Design and develop a post and leaflet trail in the closed area.
- E. Border parking areas with telephone pole barricades.

II. Affected Environment

An interim Visual Resources Management Class II rating has been assigned to the area.

III. Environmental Consequences

The aforementioned resource protection facilities would have negligible adverse impacts to the environment. Although the VRM class would be violated (see VRM Contrast Rating Form 8400-4 located in casefile), the facilities are meant to attract attention and make the public aware of their purpose.

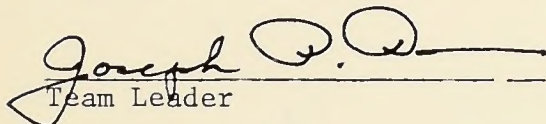
Appropriately using and abiding by the facilities, visitors would directly and effectively protect the environment. The design and construction of facilities would maximize a complementary harmony with the local environment through design, color, form, layout, etc. Loss of soil, vegetation and some mammal displacement would occur due to trail construction, etc. Approximately 1/4 - 3/4 acre of soil and vegetation would be disturbed.

Furthermore, the precise location of the resource protection facilities is unknown. Therefore, a cultural survey of the area will be conducted after design and layout location has been determined.

A. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

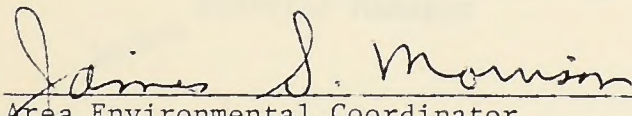
The resource protection facilities will require maintenance as vandalism or weathering occurs. Approximately 1/4 to 3/4 acre of vegetation and soil would be disturbed and some small animals would be displaced. Scenic quality would be affected.

Prepared by:

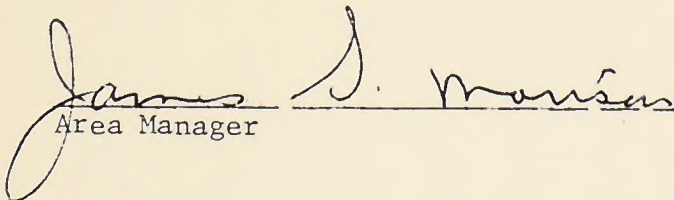

Team Leader

3/11/82
Date

Reviewed and Approved:

acting 
Area Environmental Coordinator
Approved:

3-11-82
Date


Area Manager

3-11-82
Date

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Bishop Resource Area
873 N. Main St., Suite 201
Bishop, CA 93514

IN REPLY REFER TO:

EA #CA-010-1-B33
(C-017)

To : District Manager, C-010

Date: May 1, 1981

FROM : Area Manager, Bishop RA

SUBJECT: Decision Document for South Tufa Scenic Area Visitor Use Plan

1. I recommend that this plan be approved for implementation as proposed.
2. This plan is harmonious with proposed land use planning decisions and proposed ACEC plan elements. There has been much support from the public indicating acceptance of the basic protective measures for the South Tufa Scenic Area.
3. An Environmental Impact Statement is not needed for adopting this action.

I concur:

J. J. Salt
District Manager

acting

James S. Morin

5-5-81
Date

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Type of EA:

Application(s) (Non-BLM)

☒ Standard ☐ MD

X BLM Proposal(s)

☐ Programmatic

Type of Application(s) or Proposal(s):

8223.1

☐ Decision Record based on
Programmatic

☐ Surface Protection Technical
Exam/EA (combined)

Name of EA:

South Tufa Visitor Use Action Plan

Name of Applicant(s):

BLM

Legal Description:

T. 18 N., R. 27 E., Section 17 and 18
All public land inclusive

County:

Mono

Planning Unit:

Benton

Prepared BY:

Robert E. Beehler

Environmental Assessment

This assessment addresses specific actions identified in the South Tufa Scenic Area Visitor Use Plan. The plan was developed to provide a coordinated program of recreation management actions in the South Tufa Scenic Area. The plan is dynamic in concept and allows for additional data accumulation, changing public concerns, use patterns, and management responsibilities. This assessment will be amended accordingly as new actions are implemented.

I. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would be the implementation of the "South Tufa Scenic Area Plan", which follows this page.

B. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

1. No Management Alternative - No management would allow irreversible damage to the natural values. Vehicles would be allowed in the tufa area causing direct and indirect degradation of the natural features. Direct impacts would include destruction of smaller tufa stands by vehicles, compaction of soil and vegetation. Indirect impacts include loss of vegetation for small mammal protective cover and a general lessening of scenic and recreational values. In relation to these impacts, the "no management alternative" is not considered viable.

2. No Action Alternative - Continue Existing Management - This alternative would continue to constrain the ability of the Bureau to effectively manage visitor use. The current limitation on management's discretionary authority concerning authorization of vehicle access greatly impairs resource management. Impacts to the wildlife research area from visitor use associated with the current parking area - trail system would continue and possibly increase under this alternative. This alternative is not considered reasonable due to its constraining effect on the Bureau's management responsibilities.

II. Description of the Existing Environment

A. Non-Living Components

The South Tufa Scenic area is characterized by striking contrasts of color, geology and vegetation. Almost every shape and texture imaginable are exhibited by the various formations of tufa. Ranging from less than 6 inches in height to 20 feet, these spires and mounds dominate the area.

The individual deposits provide a monument to once active fresh water springs. These springs were once the life source for the tufa and as the lake level has dropped, the now inactive springs are marked by these formations. The various shapes and colors of the tufa form a spectacular foreground to the sky blue color of the lake and the massive towering Sierra Nevada Mountains. These natural features combine to form a sightseeing attraction of world-wide notoriety. Thousands of visitors utilize the area during the summer months.

The project area is characterized by low annual precipitation (Average 7.3" year), high summer temperatures, and low winter temperatures. Air quality throughout the area is high except during periods of high wind, when the dust blows off the newly exposed lake bottom.

B. Living Components

Vegetation within the scenic area consists of alkali-meadow dominated by mixed stands of saltgrass and rubber rabbitbrush. The moist phases of this community are characterized by the presence of significant amounts of sedges and inland saltgrass.

Although Mono Lake is quite saline, it supports 15 species of phytoplankton and a variety of species of zooplankton, two of which are brine shrimp (Artemia salina) and a larval brine fly (Ephydra hians). Mono Lake also supports a large number of grebes, gulls, norther and Wilson's phalarope and other birds during migration. Mammals inhabiting the area include coyotes, ground squirrels, and other rodents. There are no known endangered plant or animal species existing within the South Tufa Area.

C. Ecological Relationships

Since Mono Lake is a closed basin and has no outflows except evaporation, anything dissolved in the water entering the lake remains and accumulates. According to Winkler, 1977, these extreme conditions can be tolerated by only a few organisms adapted for highly saline-alkaline water. This makes Mono Lake an ecologically "open" environment, free to be colonized by those organisms sturdy enough to survive and reproduce. The nutrient-rich waters allow prolific autotrophic growth. Its phytoplankton - microscopic photosynthesizing algae captures and stores large quantities of solar energy. The phytoplankton are consumed by brine shrimp which in turn feed the large number of birds.

D. Human Values

Mono Lake lies east of Yosemite National Park and is considered to be one of the most scenic and scientifically interesting regions in California. The area possesses unique ecological values not found anywhere else in California.

The presence of a large lake in an otherwise arid setting makes a striking contrast.

A contrast rating (Form 8400-4) was completed for the proposed action and all visual management requirements will be met.

An inspection of the proposed parking area and roadway improvement by the Area Archaeologist has revealed no cultural resources are present.

The project area is not within an area encumbered by the wilderness review process as it was dropped in the initial inventory. The area is adjacent to the Mono Mills Dorn sheep grazing allotment, but is not allocated at the present time. Occasional grazing does occur within the project area by the animals in the adjacent allotment.

III. Analysis of the Proposed Action

A. Environmental Impacts

1. Anticipated Impacts

The impacts associated with the modification of the closure boundary and authorizing special uses (vehicle) in the closure order are as follow:

a. Impacts associated with the case-by-case authorization of vehicle access into the closed area would include minimal air, soil, and vegetation degradation. This activity could potentially disturb both wildlife and recreationists on an infrequent basis.

b. Minimal impacts to the scenic quality of the area could result from various authorized activities.

Impacts associated with the development of the parking area, improvement of the trailhead access road and gate will include the loss or disturbance of approximately 1½ acres of vegetation and soil. Some small mammals will be disturbed by removal of vegetative cover and the subsequent compaction of the surface area. All construction activities will be finished prior to Memorial Day weekend and will require approximately 10 working days.

2. Possible Mitigating or Enhancing Measures

Due to the nature and development of the proposed action and in-depth consideration to environmental protection, there are no known possible and recommended mitigating or enhancing measures.

3. Residual Impacts

The development of public awareness and subsequent increased visitation will require a continual management presence in the area. As appropriate facilities are developed the fiscal responsibility will also increase.

The construction of the parking area and road improvement will result in the loss of approximately 1½ acres of vegetation. The modification of the closure boundary will mean better compliance with the intent of the closure to help preserve and protect the natural values.

B. Relationship Between Short-Term and Long-Term Productivity

The short-term benefit of the proposed action is that immediate steps will be implemented to protect and preserve the sensitive natural values. As such, the long-term benefit will be the continued preservation of this unique scenic area as it exists today for use by future generations.

IV. Intensity of Public Interest

The South Tufa Scenic Area has drawn world-wide attention because of increased public concern over Mono Lake. The "Save the Mono Lake Committee" and other organizations and groups are quite concerned about the situation. Law suits have been filed against Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Bureau to protect the basin's unique features.

V. Participating Staff

Robert Beehler, Visitor Services Specialist, Bishop Resource Area
Rand L. Lewman, Environmental Coordinator, Bishop Resource Area
Garth Portillo, Archaeologist, Bishop Resource Area
Joe Pollini, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Bishop Resource Area
Karen Weaver, Clerical Assistant, Bishop Resource Area
Carol Bustos, Administrative Technician, Bishop Resource Area

VI. Summary Conclusion

The proposed action, if carried out as outlined in the Visitor Use Plan, will provide an effective means of managing visitor use, as well as specialized uses, in the South Tufa Scenic Area to protect and preserve the natural values.

Prepared by:

Robert E Beehler

Team Leader

May 1, 1981

Date

Approved:

Rand L. Lewman

Area Environmental Coordinator

05/01/81

Date

Reviewed by:

James S. Monism

Area Manager

5-1-81

Date

Reviewed by:

Jim Salt

District Manager

5-5-81

Date

~~Noting~~



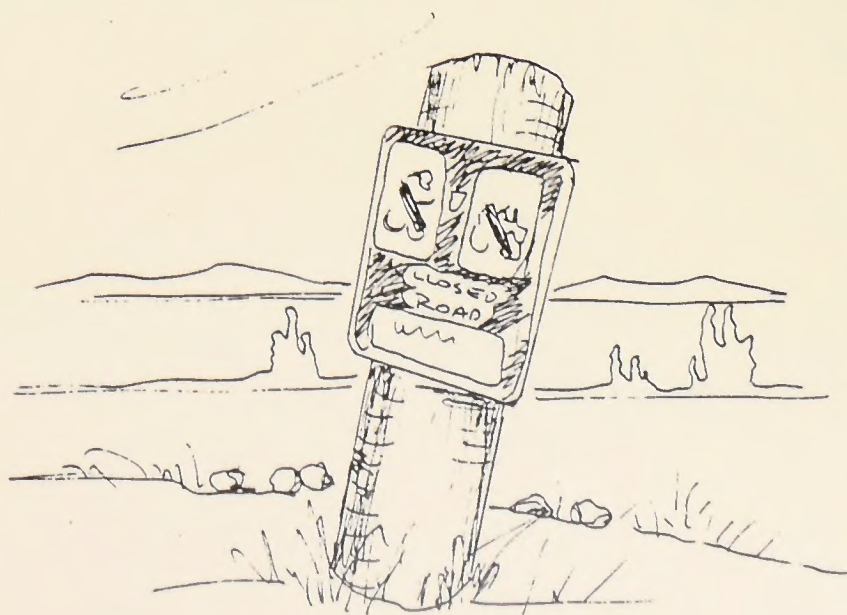
IX CONTRIBUTING STAFF

IX. Contributing Staff

The following specialists formed the team for the Interim Visitor Use Plan for South Tufa.

1. Robert Beehler
Visitor Services Specialist
Bishop Resource Area
2. Joseph P. Pollini
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Bishop Resource Area
3. Virginia Willis
Illustrator
California State Office
4. John Skibinski
Lead Visitor Services Specialist
California State Office

X BIBLIOGRAPHY



X. Bibliography

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1980 and 1981

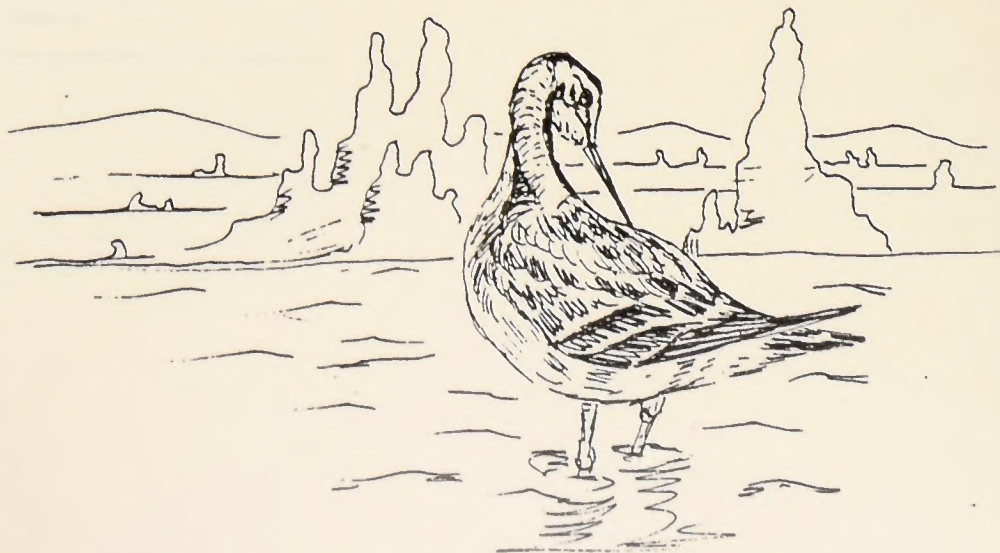
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the Office of the Federal Register, General Services Administration,
Washington, D.C., 1980

XI APPENDICES



APPENDIX I

The following citation appeared in Volume 46 of the Federal Register No. 104 on June 1, 1981.

Bureau of Land Management California; Emergency Closure of Public Lands

Notice is hereby given that effective immediately all designated areas of public lands in Section 17 and 18, T. 1 N., R. 27 E., MDBM, located north of the maintained gravel/dirt road traversing diagonally from near the east half of Section 18 to the extreme southwest corner of Section 17, and east of the mining access road which parallels the west line north along the east half of Section 18 with the exception of the designated parking area and access road, are closed to all vehicle access except when authorized for administrative purposes (see accompanying map).¹ Copies of the map are available at the Bakersfield District Office.

The purpose of this closure is to protect the fragile Mono Lake Tufa Towers from damage by motor vehicles.

Authority for this closure is under Title 43 CFR 8341.2 and will be in effect until further notice.

Harold W. Lamb,

Acting District Manager.

[FR Doc. 81-10101 Filed 5-29-81; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-04-M

APPENDIX II

The following citations are excerpted from Title 43 CFR 8363 and are entitled "Rules of Conduct". The citations are located on page 797 of the October 1, 1980 edition.

§ 8363.2-2 Prohibited activities.

In the use of lands for public outdoor recreation purposes, no one shall:

(a) Intentionally or wantonly destroy, deface, injure, sign, remove, or disturb any public building, sign, equipment, marker, or other public property.

(b) Harvest or remove any vegetative or mineral resources or object of antiquity, historic, or scientific interest unless such removal is in accordance with Part 3 of this title, regulations of this section, or is otherwise authorized by law.

(c) Appropriately mutilate, deface, or destroy any natural feature, object of natural beauty, antiquity, or other public or private property.

(d) Dig, remove, or destroy any tree or shrub.

(e) Gather or collect renewable or nonrenewable resources for the purpose of sale or barter unless specifically permitted or authorized law.

(f) Drive or operate motorized vehicles or otherwise conduct himself in a manner that may result in unnecessary frightening or chasing of people, domestic livestock and wildlife.

(g) Use motorized mechanical devices or explosives for digging, scraping, or trenching for purposes of collecting.

§ 8363.3 Supplemental rules.

Additional rules to protect the public health and safety and protect resources may be established by the authorized officer, as necessary. They shall be posted in appropriate locations to notify the public of requirements for the occupancy and use of lands, outdoor recreation facilities, and roads and trails. The posted rules may provide for, but need not be limited to, protection of public health and safety, protection of lands from fires, prevention of soil erosion, and utilization and protection of outdoor recreation and other resource values of the public lands.

APPENDIX III

The following citation was excerpted from Title 43 CFR 8342 and is located on pages 791 and 792 of the October 1, 1980 edition.

Subpart 8342—Designation of Areas and Trails

§ 8342.1 Designation criteria.

The authorized officer shall designate all public lands as either open, limited, or closed to off-road vehicles. All designations shall be based on the protection of the resources of the public lands, the promotion of the safety of all the users of the public lands, and the minimization of conflicts among various uses of the public lands; and in accordance with the following criteria:

(a) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, air, or other resources of the public lands, and to prevent impairment of wilderness suitability.

(b) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.

(c) Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors.

(d) Areas and trails shall not be located in officially designated wilderness areas or primitive areas. Areas and trails shall be located in natural areas only if the authorized officer determines that off-road vehicle use in such locations will not adversely affect their natural, esthetic, scenic, or other values for which such areas are established.

§ 8342.2 Designation procedures.

(a) *Public participation.* The authorized officer shall, to the extent practical, designate and redesignate areas and trails in conjunction with the Bureau planning system for the formulation of multiple-use management plans. Plans shall consider current and potential impacts of specific vehicle types on all resources and users in the region of the area under consideration. Prior to making designations or redesignations, the authorized officer shall consult with interested user groups, Federal, State, county, and local agencies, local landowners, and other parties in a manner that provides an opportunity for the public to express itself and have those views taken into account.

(b) *Identification of designated areas and trails.* The authorized officer shall, after designation, take action by marking and other appropriate measures to identify designated areas and trails so that the public will be aware of locations and limitations ap-

plicable thereto. Public notice of designations or redesignations shall be given at the time of designation or redesignation through publication in the *Federal Register* and local news media. Copies of such notices shall be available to the public in local Bureau offices. The authorized officer will make available to the public appropriate informational material, including maps.

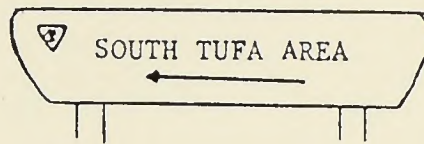
§ 8342.3 Designation changes.

Monitoring use. The authorized officer shall monitor effects of the use of off-road vehicles. On the basis of information so obtained, and whenever the authorized officer deems it necessary to carry out the objectives of this part, designations may be amended, revised, revoked, or other actions taken pursuant to the regulations in this part.

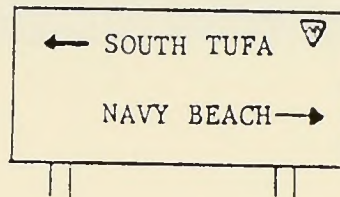
APPENDIX IV

The following represents regulatory/safety signs that will be installed at the South Tufa Area. See Map C for location of signs. Sign numbers correspond to sign location numbers on Map C.

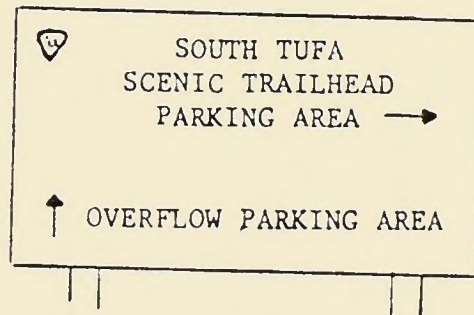
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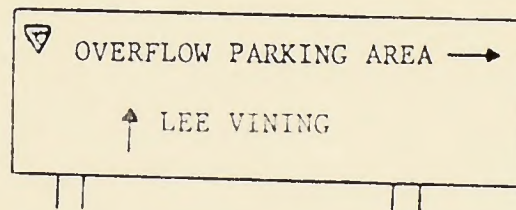
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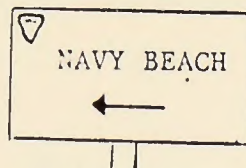
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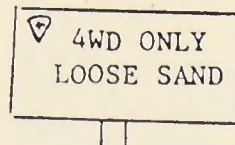
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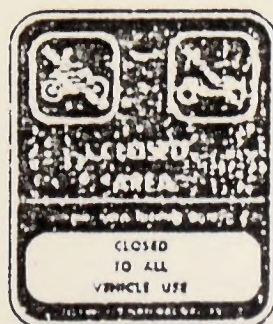
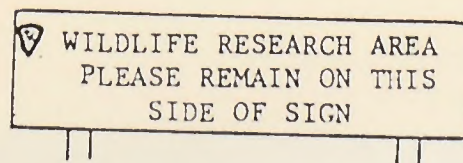
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6.



7.



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